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Letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group in New York, to transmit herewith the text of the Final Communiqué of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 40, 41, 42, 44, 47, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 62, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 81, 87, 90, 93, 96, 100, 102, 108 (q), 109, 110, 111, 112 and 113, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 8 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ
OF THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
MEMBER STATES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS – NEW YORK
25 SEPTEMBER 2006- 3 RAMADAN 1427

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States held their Annual Coordination Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 SEPTEMBER 2006, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Representative of the UN Secretary General attended the meeting. The Meeting, after deliberation, adopted the following:

1. The Meeting emphasized its strong conviction about the central role that the United Nations, as the only universal multilateral organization, can and should play in strengthening global coordination and cooperation in dealing with global challenges and threats, and reaffirmed the determination of the OIC Member States to actively work with the United Nations along this line in accordance with its Charter. In this regard, the Meeting also reiterated that the United Nations remains an indispensable global mechanism for the promotion of a shared vision of a more secure and prosperous world. It, further, underscored that multilateralism and collective approaches, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the Untied Nations, are essential tools in addressing the common threats and challenges.

2. The Meeting commended the efforts of the Secretary General in strengthening cooperation between the OIC and other regional and international organizations and urged him to sign more cooperation agreements with these organizations, particularly with the United Nations organs and bodies.

3. The Meeting reiterated adherence to the purposes, objectives and principles of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and once again reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

4. The Meeting reiterated devotion to the noble ideas of peace, humanism and tolerance to aptly respond to the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. It further emphasized that recent defiances confronting Islam compel Member States to further unite around the values of Islam and display solidarity.

5. The Meeting supported the continuation of reforms in the economic, social and cultural areas, as well as in the spheres of democratization, transparency and strengthening the role of civil society in the OIC Member States and considered it important to protect cultural, religious and racial diversity. It stressed that this diversity must not be a source of conflict but rather a source of mutual enrichment and dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations.

6. The Meeting expressed deep concern over the growing tendency towards Islamophobia and called for concrete efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions by promoting tolerance, respect for and freedom of religion and belief. In this regard, it welcomed the work of the OIC General Secretariat to establish the OIC Observatory aimed at monitoring manifestations of Islamophopbia. It underlined the importance to raise public awareness throughout the world on the tenets and values of Islam, including among the youth, and underlined the crucial role of mass media in this regard. It therefore welcomed the proposal of Azerbaijan to host an OIC Conference on the role of media in the development of tolerance and mutual understanding in 2007 in Baku.

7. The Meeting reiterated the support of the OIC for the ongoing work within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) initiative, co-sponsored by Turkey. Furthermore, taking note of the upcoming meeting of the AoC High Level Group in Istanbul this November, where an Action Plan will be finalized and approved, the Meeting expressed its commitment to contribute to the implementation of this Plan with a view to promoting mutual respect and understanding among different cultures and societies.

8. The Meeting paid special tribute to the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, for his timely and important initiative on "Enlightened Moderation" which was adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference through its resolution no. 45/10 P(IS). The Meeting also paid special tribute to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, for the timely and important initiative on "Islam Hadhari"(Civilizational Islam). Welcoming the adoption, by the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah al- Mukarramah- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7-8 December 2005, of the Ten Year Programme of Action which incorporates the various recommendations of the Commission of Eminent Persons on developing the political, economic, security, cultural and social conditions in the Islamic World, the meeting encouraged the Secretary General and the Member States to faithfully and expeditiously implement these recommendations.

9. The Meeting welcomed the initiative of Indonesia and Norway in convening the Global Inter-Media Dialogue in Bali on 1-2 September 2006 which underscored the important role of the international mass media in promoting greater freedom of expression, increasing tolerance and mutual understanding among peoples of different cultural and religious backgrounds as well as in advancing peace.

10. Considering the importance of dialogue among civilizations and expansion of relations between the Islamic world and other cultures and civilizations, the Meeting reiterated its commitment to broader contacts and exchanges and to the harmony of peace, freedom, rights and justice. In this

regard, the Meeting recalled the following initiatives from the Islamic World: Dialogue among Civilizations-Iran; Religious and Cultural Understanding, Harmony and Cooperation-Pakistan; International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010-Bangladesh; Seminar on Islam and the West-Qatar; OIC-EU Joint Forum "Civilization and Harmony; The Political Dimension"-Turkey; the International Conference of Islamic Scholars-Indonesia, Declaration of the Second Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions-Kazakhstan, Alliance of Civilizations-co-sponsored by Turkey, and the International Conference on Islamic-Christian Dialogue in 2006 (Senegal).

11. The Meeting, with reference to the lecture delivered by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on Tuesday 12 September 2006 at the University of Regensburg in Germany, entitled "Faith, Reason, and the University Memories and Reflections", expressed their dismay and outrage and regretted the quotations cited by the Pope on the Life of the Honorable Prophet Mohamed. The Meeting further regretted the other derogatory fallacies defaming Islam in the text of the lecture. The Meeting affirmed that the quotations ended up indulging in a character assassination of the Prophet Mohamed, in flagrant contradiction with his well-established reputation as the Prophet of Mercy for all of Humanity—a reputation which has endured for centuries on end the world over. The Meeting expressed its hope that this campaign was not the prelude of a new Vatican policy towards Islam as well as towards the longstanding constructive dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions and its expectation that the Vatican would issue statements that redress this insult and reflect the true position and views on Islam and Islamic teachings. The OIC will remain seized of this issue.

REGIONAL ISSUES

12. The Meeting recalled the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the "Prevention of Armed Conflict" which reaffirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and the need to bring an end to situations of foreign occupation as a commitment by the international community to promote the culture of conflict prevention.

PALESTINE AND AL-QUDS AL-SHARIF

13. The Meeting reaffirmed the centrality of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the whole Islamic Ummah. It affirmed the Arab nature of East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. It reiterated its condemnation of the attempts by Israel, the occupying Power, to change the status, demographic composition and the character of East Jerusalem, in particular by its illegal colonization practices, including its settlement activities and construction of the Wall in and around the City.

14. The Meeting condemned the ongoing and intensifying Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian people by which Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to commit grave human rights violations and war crimes, including the killing and injuring of Palestinian civilians by use of disproportionate and indiscriminate force as well as the continued practice of extrajudicial executions, the vast destruction of properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians, including women and children. It demanded that Israel,

the occupying Power, immediately cease all such violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law.

15. The Meeting strongly condemned Israel's continuation and escalation of its military aggression and acts of State terror against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have resulted in the killing and injury of hundreds of civilians, including women and children, and the deliberate and wanton destruction of Palestinian property and vital infrastructure. It stressed that such unlawful actions by the occupying Power constitute grave breaches of international law, i.e. war crimes, for which the perpetrators must be held accountable and brought to justice. It called for the immediate cessation of Israel's military aggression and collective punishment against the Palestinian people and called for Israel's scrupulous compliance with all of its legal obligations under international law, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention. It also called for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from within the Gaza Strip, for Israel to fulfill its responsibility to repair all damages caused to the infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, and for the immediate release of all Palestinian officials detained by Israel, the occupying Power, since 28 June 2006.

16. The Meeting condemned Israel's continued imposition of collective punishment upon the Palestinian people, including in particular the severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods via closures and hundreds of checkpoints, some of which have been transformed into structures similar to permanent international border crossings, including at Qalandiya and Bethlehem, in the middle of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, away from the 1967 border (Green Line). It stressed that such illegal Israeli practices are in effect strangling the Palestinian economy and society, are physically severing the northern, central and southern parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory into separate and isolated areas, and are undermining its territorial integrity and contiguity.

17. The Meeting reiterated its deep concern at the intensifying hardships being faced by the Palestinian people during the current period following the 25 January 2006 elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council and the increasing financial and political isolation being imposed on the Palestinian Authority by some members of the international community in the aftermath of the elections. It called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to refrain from withholding tax revenue transfers due to the Palestinian Authority, which is deepening the financial crisis of the Authority. The Meeting rejected the punishment of the Palestinian people for the democratic election of their representatives, and instead reaffirmed the necessity of upholding international law, international humanitarian law, including in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter with regard to the question of Palestine under all circumstances.

18. The Meeting affirmed its full support and backing for the Palestinian people in strengthening their national unity and unifying their internal front; and expressed its support for the Palestinian national dialogue efforts and for its steadfastness in the face of the illegal Israeli policies and practices. It welcomed the adoption in June 2006 of the Palestinian National Conciliation Document.

19. The Meeting reiterated its grave concern and strong condemnation regarding Israel's continuing intensive campaign of settler colonialism, including vast land confiscations and the construction and

expansion of illegal settlements, and condemned Israel's intentions to proceed with the dangerous and illegal E-1 plan in and around Occupied East Jerusalem as well as its declared plans to illegally annex the Jordan Valley. Furthermore, the Meeting stressed the dangers of the Israeli Government's continuing unilateral measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and expressed their rejection of its declared intentions to proceed with further unlawful unilateral plans in the West Bank. It reaffirmed that such plans are unlawful, unacceptable and cannot alter the terms of reference of the peace process nor negate the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

20. The Meeting reiterated its condemnation of Israel's continuing construction of the Wall throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, in flagrant violation of international law and disregard for the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004 and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004. It expressed its deep concern at the physical, economic and social devastation being caused by the Wall, which is dissecting the Territory into several walled and isolated cantons and severing Occupied East Jerusalem from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this regard, it further reiterated that, if completed, the Wall, along with Israel's illegal settlement campaign and fortification of illegal checkpoints, will render the two-State solution impossible to achieve. It therefore stressed the urgency and obligation of respect for and compliance with both the Advisory Opinion and resolution ES-10/15 by Israel, the occupying power, by Member States and by the United Nations. It also expressed its disappointment at the lack of progress made by the UN Secretariat in establishing the register of damages caused by the Wall, as called for in resolution ES-10/15, and called upon the UN Secretary-General to exert all necessary efforts to expedite this matter. It also called on the Security Council to undertake its responsibilities by adopting a clear resolution and undertaking necessary measures in this regard. The Meeting called upon Member States to undertake measures, including by means of legislation collectively, regionally and individually, to prevent any products of the illegal Israeli settlements from entering their markets consistent with the obligations under international treaties, to decline entry to Israeli settlers and to impose sanctions against companies and entities involved in the construction of the wall and other illegal action in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

21. The Meeting called for the urgent intensification of efforts by the Quartet and the entire international community, in particular the Security Council, to address the current political and humanitarian crisis, leading to the revival of the peace process and the resumption of negotiations between the two sides and the full and honest implementation of the Road Map towards ending the occupation of the Palestinian Territory that was occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and thus realizing the two-State solution. It also called on the Quartet to engage the Security Council, considering the Council's Charter authority and responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It also emphasized the importance of the decisions of the recent Arab Summit in Khartoum, the Sudan, especially the call for reinvigoration of the Arab Peace Initiative adopted in Beirut, Lebanon, on 28 March 2002.

22. The Meeting reaffirmed the permanent responsibility of the United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, towards the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects on the basis of international law, including a just resolution to the plight of the refugees in

accordance with General Assembly resolution 194(III) of 11 December 1948. It called upon the United Nations to increase its efforts towards the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement, based on the two-State solution, and on relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) as well as agreed principles, which call for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and all other occupied Arab territories and the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in their independent State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

23. The Meeting recalled General Assembly resolution 58/292 of 6 May 2004, on the "Status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", and stressed the need for follow-up in ensuring that Israeli credentials to the United Nations do not cover the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem.

24. The Meeting outlined the fundamental role of Al-Quds Committee, chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, and its tireless efforts to revive the peace process in order to reach a comprehensive, lasting and just peace in the Middle East, contributing to stand up for the legitimacy of the Palestinian's people cause, to preserve the Holy Lands of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its particular spiritual dimension.

25. The Meeting reiterated the need to grant the necessary support to the "Bayt Mal A-Quds Al-Sharif" Agency for the implementation of its program and plan of action in the fields of urbanism, education and health, taking into account the humanitarian conditions, which prevail inside the Palestinian Territories.

26. The Meeting condemned Israel, the occupying Power, for the excavation works around and beneath the blessed Al -Aqsa Mosque and for willfully destroying cultural and heritage sites in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Nablus and Al-Khaleel (Hebron), and commended the initiative of the Director General of UNESCO concerning the preservation of the historical heritage of the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. In this regard, it resolved to coordinate between the OIC General Secretariat and UNESCO, and invited the Member States to support this initiative and help implement it.

27. The Meeting strongly condemned the continuous threats against Islamic and Christian holy places, particularly the threats to storm and damage the blessed Al- Aqsa Mosque, and held Israel, the occupying Power, fully responsible for the consequences of these aggressions, particularly as they happen under the eyes and protection of Israeli occupation forces. It also condemned acts of terrorism committed by illegal Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and peace activists coming from all parts of the world to show solidarity with the Palestinian people.

28. The Meeting took note of and called for immediate implementation of resolution S-1/Res.1 adopted by the First Special Session of the Human Rights Council on 6 July 2006 in which it demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, end the military operation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, abide scrupulously by the provisions of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refrain from imposing collective punishment on Palestinian civilians", and also urged Israel

to "immediately release the arrested Palestinian Ministers, members of the Palestinian legislative Council and others, as well as all others arrested Palestinian civilians. The Meeting requested the OIC Group in Geneva to ensure the implementation of resolution S-1/Res.1, in particular the urgent dispatch of an urgent fact-finding mission headed by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

29. The Meeting expressed its full support for the decision taken by the governments of Costa Rica and El Salvador to move their embassies from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. It reaffirmed all Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to Jerusalem conforming that it is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian Territory, and that all Israeli measures aimed at altering the legal, geographic and demographic character and status of Jerusalem are null and void.

SYRIA

30. The Meeting strongly condemned Israel's policy of refusing to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and its policies of annexation, building of colonial settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources and imposition of Israeli nationality upon Syrian citizens. It also demanded Israel to completely withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan to the June 4th 1967 lines in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, the Madrid Peace Conference terms of reference and the Arab Peace Initiative, adopted by the Beirut Arab Summit on 28 March 2002. The meeting also demanded Israel to release all Syrian detainees citizens of the Syrian occupied Golan, taking into consideration that some of them have been detained for more than 20 years.

31. The Meeting condemned threats against some Member States, particularly the Syrian Arab Republic, and condemned the decision of the US Administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions against Syria. It also condemned the so-called "Syria Accountability Act". It urged Member States to further strengthen their brotherly ties with Syria in all fields.

LEBANON

32. The Meeting expressed strong condemnation of the relentless Israeli aggression launched against Lebanon and the serious violations by Israel of the Lebanese territorial integrity and sovereignty, and in this regard charged Israel with full responsibility for the consequences of its aggression.

33. The Meeting expressed solidarity with and support for the Government and people of Lebanon, hailed their heroic resistance to the Israeli aggression, and emphasized the primordial importance of Lebanon's national unity and stability.

34. The Meeting strongly condemned the indiscriminate and massive Israeli air strikes and shelling on Lebanese towns and villages targeting civilians, civil infrastructure and private properties which constitute a serious breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, International Law and International Humanitarian Law, and blatant and flagrant violations of Human Rights.

35. The Meeting strongly convinced that there should be no impunity for violations by Israel of International Law and International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and that Israel should be held accountable for its crimes. Furthermore Israel should, without further delay, surrender all the maps of the land mines it had planted in Lebanon to the United Nations as these mines are causing a lot of death and terror among both the civilian population and the Lebanese Army recently deployed south of the Litani River.

36. The Meeting called for a strict implementation of UNSCR 1701 (2006), and in this respect called for an immediate and complete cease fire, and for the complete lift of the air, sea, and land blockade imposed by Israel on Lebanon's territories, and for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon with full respect for the Blue Line and the sovereignty of Lebanon in land, sea, and air and for an undertaking to release the Lebanese and Israeli detainees and prisoners through the ICRC.

37. The Meeting welcomed the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces in the region south of Litani River, such that there will be no weapon or authority other than that of the Lebanese State as stipulated in the Taef National Reconciliation Document, and called on States to expedite their contribution to Lebanon as requested by UNSCR 1701 (2006), and expressed gratitude for States which declared their intention to contribute.

38. The Meeting expressed full support for the Seven-Point Plan presented by the Lebanese Government, and emphasized the importance of the contribution of the United Nations in settling the issue of the Sheba'a Farms in accordance with the proposal mentioned in the aforementioned Seven-Point Plan and with UNSCR 1701 (2006), and called upon all relevant parties to cooperate with the United Nations to reach a solution to the Sheba'a Farms issue which protects Lebanon' sovereign rights in that area.

39. The Meeting called for a generous contribution to the current humanitarian relief efforts, and urged the international community to support Lebanon on all levels in facing the tremendous burden resulting from the human, social and economic tragedy, and in enhancing the Lebanese national economy. In this regard, the Meeting welcomed the results of the Donor's Conference held in Stockholm on 31st August 2006 for early recovery, and encourages the international community to participate in the Conference which will be organized by the Lebanese Government to support the reconstruction in Lebanon.

40. The Meeting held Israel responsible for the loss of lives and suffering as well as the destruction of properties and infrastructure, and demanded Israel to compensate the Republic of Lebanon and its people for the losses sustained resulting from Israel's aggression.

41. The Meeting, pursuant to the failure of other means, emphasized the necessity of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict based on relevant UNSC Resolutions and through the Security Council in an exceptional initiative that will lead to the establishment of a just, permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as was calculated for by the Arab League.

42. The Meeting welcomed the adoption by the Special Meeting of the Extended Executive Committee of the OIC, Putrajaya, Malaysia on 3 August 2006, of the Putrajaya Declaration on the Situation in Lebanon and the Putrajaya Declaration on the Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

43. The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the Ninth Conference of the Liaison Officers of Islamic Regional Offices of Boycott of Israel, which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat in Jeddah from 13 to 15 March 2005.

44. The Meeting took note and called for the immediate implementation of the resolution A/HRC/S-2/L-2 adopted by the 2nd Special Session of Human Rights Council (HRC) concerning the Israeli grave violations of human rights in Lebanon.

IRAQ

45. The Meeting strongly reaffirmed the imperative of respect by all for the sovereignty, political independence, national unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. It emphasized the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their own political future and effectively control their own natural resources.

46. The Meeting welcomed the progress that was made in implementing the arrangements of Iraqi political process according to the timelines stipulated in Security Council Resolution 1546 (2004), particularly the referendum of the Constitution on 15 October 2005 and the Legislative Elections on 15 December 2005 which has led to the election of full four-year term Government.

47. The Meeting expressed support for the government's efforts to control Iraq's borders and security so as to serve independence and security in Iraq and the entire region. The Meeting stressed the importance of international support for security and stability in Iraq and welcomed the establishment of the OIC Contact Group on Iraq. It also affirmed that the importance of opening an OIC coordination office in Baghdad.

48. The Meeting strongly condemned the terrorist acts that were carried out and continue to be carried out against the Iraqi people, official and civil institutions and the diplomatic community in Iraq and called for the necessary assistance to curb violence and dry out the sources of terrorism.

49. The Meeting strongly condemned and deplored all acts of kidnapping and assassination directed against Iraqis and nationals of other countries.

50. The Meeting reaffirmed the urgent necessity of eliminating all terrorist and other armed groups present and emanating from Iraqi territory, which constitute a danger to the security and stability of Iraq and its neighbouring States.

51. The Meeting called upon Iraq's neighbouring countries to increase their cooperation with the Government of Iraq on the overall border security, including effective monitoring of the borders, strict

controls at entry points and cross border movements and exchange of intelligence with Iraq, with the primary aim of stemming terrorist and other illegal infiltration to and from Iraq.

52. The Meeting also condemned all calls based on sectarianism which cause discord among the Iraqi people and most particularly the recent calls launched by the terrorist groups for Iraqis to fight against each other.

53. The Meeting condemned the inhumane practices and abused committed against the Iraqi detainees at Abu-Ghraib prison, and at the other prisons and detention centers in Iraq. It demanded that those responsible be tried by appropriate judicial processes that conform to international standards in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.

54. The Meeting also underlined the necessity for all parties, including the multinational forces to respect the civil and religious rights of the Iraqi people as well as the preservation of the religious sites and cultural and historical heritage of Iraq.

55. The Meeting welcomed the announcement by Iraq to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighbouring States, based on mutual respect and the principle of non- interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and agreements particularly those relevant to internationally recognized border, and invited Iraq and its neighbouring countries to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region.

56. The Meeting called upon all the Member-States to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts to combat the illegal trade and trafficking of Iraqi antiquities and help return those recovered to the Iraqi Museums.

57. The Meeting supported the Iraqi Government's efforts aimed at full control of all Iraqi resources for the betterment of the people's living conditions and the reconstruction of the State's institutions and national economy.

58. The Meeting called upon the Member-States to provide all forms of support and assistance to meet Iraq's needs and facilitate contributions and efforts designed to reactivate its organizational bodies, and economic institutions and infrastructure. The Meeting also urged the donor countries and the international community to take immediate steps to meet the obligations pledged in the Madrid conference (2003) and to increase their contribution in the reconstruction and development of the Iraqi economy. The Meeting also welcomed the commitment of the Paris Club to reduce substantially Iraq's sovereign debt and urged the other creditors to take similar decisions.

59. The Meeting welcomed the United Nations Secretary General's agreement, as requested by the Government of Iraq, that the United Nations, as co-chair, will provide strong support for the International Compact of Iraq launched on 27th July 2006 with a joint statement by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations. It calls upon all Member-States to provide support and assistance to the Iraqi government in this endeavour.

60. The Meeting welcomed the International Compact with Iraq as an initiative of the Government of Iraq for a new partnership with the international community in order to achieve a National Vision for Iraq, which aims to consolidate peace and pursue political, economic and social development. In this context, the Meeting welcomed the outcomes of the International Compact Preparatory which was held in Abu Dhabi on September 10, 2006, and the High Level Meeting on Iraq which was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York on September 18, 2006. The Meeting also urged the donor countries and the international community to extend immediate and appropriate assistance to achieve the objective of the International Compact.

61. The Meeting condemned the mass killings of innocent Iraqis by the former regime and considered these as a crime against humanity. The Meeting demanded the trial of those responsible and called upon Member-States and the international community not to provide refuge to officials of the former regime who have committed such crimes against Iraqis and others.

62. The Meeting emphasized that the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) had done its work in disarming the previous Iraq regime from weapons of mass destruction. It further emphasized that Iraq has entered a new era which requires the Government to utilize its resources for the reconstruction of Iraq and the welfare of its people. It also emphasized that the time had come to review the mandate of UNMOVIC, in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 1546 (2004) and 1483 (2003) as a step towards its elimination, and as recommended by the UN Secretary-General, to close this chapter permanently.

63. The Meeting also expressed its full support for the efforts of the Iraqi Government to stop violence and defeat terrorism through its reconciliation plan which is designed to offer an opportunity to the different political, religious and ethnic components of the Iraqi people to peacefully participate in the political process and to start building and recon structuring their country.

KUWAITI AND IRANIAN PRISONERS OF WAR:

64. The Meeting condemned strongly the killing of Kuwaiti and Iranian Prisoners of War and third-country nationals by the former Iraqi regime; the Meeting also condemned the concealment of these crimes for over a decade by the former Iraqi regime, which is considered a violation of international humanitarian law. It called for the necessity of bringing the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity to trial.

AFGHANISTAN

65. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and expressed its support for the presidential, national assembly and Provincial Council elections, which were held in October 2004 and September 2005 respectively, which led to the establishment of a standing Afghan government representing the totality of the Afghan people, seeking to achieve security, stability and comprehensive and sustainable development.

66. The Meeting requested the Member States that have pledged donations to the Assistance Fund for the Afghan People to provide more donations in order to strengthen the Fund's resources to help it achieve its noble humanitarian goals for which it was established.

67. The Meeting appealed to the international community to speedily provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo Donor Conference held in January 2002 and the Berlin Donor Conference held on 31 March 2004, as well as in the London Conference held on 31 January-1 February 2006.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

68. The Meeting reaffirmed its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It welcomed the decision of the Secretary General to appoint Ambassador Ezzat Kamel Mufti as his Special Representative in Kashmir and requested him to undertake a fact-finding mission to Indian held Kashmir as envisaged in relevant OIC resolutions. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the ending of their continuous violations. It urged India to end human rights violations against the Kashmiri people, and allow international human rights organizations to verify the condition of human rights in Indian-held Kashmir.

69. The Meeting appreciated Pakistan's commitment to further build on the momentum of the composite Dialogue and stressed the need for the continuation of the ongoing Dialogue between Pakistan and India to resolve all outstanding issues including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting emphasized that concrete progress on resolution of Jammu and Kashmir was critical for normalization of relations between the two countries. It encouraged the two sides to maintain regular contacts at the highest level and to implement the agreed confidence-building measures (CBMs).

70. The Meeting emphasized that the peace process must not be interrupted on any pretext. Acts of terrorism taking place anywhere in the region should not be allowed to impede the peace process as was pledged in Pakistan-India Joint Statement of 18 April 2005.

71. The Meeting welcomed the revival of the Composite Dialogue Process announced subsequent to the meeting of the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of India in Havana on 16 September 2006.

72. The Meeting expressed its serious concern on the building of the fence along the Line of Control (LOC) in occupied Kashmir by India in contravention of international and bilateral agreements. The Meeting called upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to take note of the Indian actions and ensure respect and implementation of all international and bilateral agreements on LOC.

73. The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It also took note of the memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri People to

the Contact Group and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

ARMENIAN AGRESSION AGAINST AZERBAIJAN

74. The Meeting reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. The Meeting supported Azerbaijan's efforts to build on the results of the meetings held within the framework of the Prague process on the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

75. The Meeting reiterated its determination to support the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan aimed at removing the obstacles to the peace process, which have led to illegal activities carried out by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, such as the transfer of settlers of Armenian nationality, practices of artificial geographic, cultural, and demographic alterations, illicit economic activity, and exploitation of natural resources in those occupied territories. The Meeting urged all Member States to further strengthen their solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan and to extend their full support to its endeavors aimed at utilizing the potential of the United Nations, including through cooperation with relevant regional international organizations, to achieve soon the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

TURKISH CYPRIOTS

76. The Meeting expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and, within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary General in his Report of 28 May 2004 and of the previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots and strongly called on the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling the UN Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, the Meeting acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Meeting expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan. It called on the international community to exert pressure on its leadership to this end. The Meeting once again urged the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields; and encouraged the Member States to exchange high-level visits and business delegations, develop cultural relations and sports contacts with the Turkish Cypriot side. The Meeting also urged the Member States to inform the Secretariat of the actions taken regarding the implementation of the OIC resolutions, in particular resolution 5/33-P.

SUDAN

77. The Meeting emphasized its full solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in firmly establishing the foundations of peace and stability all over the country, to achieve national reconciliation, and to defend its sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity.

78. The Meeting lauded the Sudanese Government and the SPLM for honoring their international commitments by signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It requested all Member States to support the efforts of the Sudanese government to achieve peace, stability and national reconciliation in Sudan. It appealed to the international community to honor its commitments in the Oslo Conference for Reconstruction of The Sudan with a view to firmly establishing the foundations of peace in the country. It called on the General Secretariat to speedily implement the resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference on the establishment of a Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of war-stricken areas in the Republic of the Sudan. It also urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and financing institutions of Member States to contribute to the Fund. The Meeting also called on Member States to provide urgent assistance to The Sudan in order to support its efforts aimed at addressing the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

79. The Meeting commended the agreement that was signed in Abuja in May 2006 between the Government of the Republic of The Sudan and the military organizations in Darfur and asked all sides to work towards strengthening stability in Darfur. The Meeting reaffirmed its support for Sudan in its position of the presence of international Peacekeeping Forces in Darfur.(*)

SOMALIA

80. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia, while reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of the country, consistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The Meeting called on all States to respect the aforementioned sovereignty of Somalia and to refrain from interfering in its internal affairs.

81. The Meeting welcomed the Summit decision of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Banjul of 5 July 2006, including the deployment of the IGAD Peace Support Mission (IGASOM) to be followed by the AU Peace Support Mission and welcomed the Meeting's request for the Security Council to give an exemption to the arms embargo imposed on Somalia.

82. The Meeting welcomed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council to speed up preparations for the deployment of an African Union and IGAD Peace Support Mission for Somalia in accordance with Security Council Presidential Statements.

83. The Meeting strongly supported the AU Decision and urged the UN Security Council to give an exemption from the arms embargo imposed through the Security Council Resolution 733 (1992) to

(*) : The Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Senegal made reservations on the last sentence of the article (79).

AU-IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia since it is important to establish effective national security forces in country.

84. The Meeting welcomed the adoption of the National Security and Stabilization Plan for Somalia by the Transitional Federal Parliament and believes that the adoption of a security is an important step towards establishing an effective security forces in Somalia.

85. The Meeting emphasized that the situation in Somalia and the objective of long-term stability can most effectively be addressed if the international community and the UN Security Council in particular play their active role including the process of rebuilding national institutions in Somalia.

86. The Meeting expresses its support for the Transitional Federal Government's ongoing efforts to enhance security in the country and to make operational the national security forces.

87. The Meeting urged the international community to address the funding requirements of the Transitional Government on Somalia for reconstruction and development, institutional capacity building as well as disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programs.

88. The Meeting requested the Secretarial General of the United Nations to take urgently the following steps in support of the Transitional Federal Government:

- Dispatch a headquarter led inter agency to assess a comprehensive post-conflict peace-building mission to be deployed in Somalia;

- Carry out a comprehensive assessment and proposals to for how the United Nations may further assist in the training of the police personnel of the Transitional Federal Government with a view to establishing uniform standards of law enforcement throughout Somalia and demobilization of militias;

- Invite donors to make contributions to the trust fund for peace-building in Somalia and promoting coherency of policy approaches towards Somalia;

- Facilitating exchanges of information and finding ways and means of drawing international attention to Somali's humanitarian and development assistance.

89. The Meeting commended the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), African Union, League of Arab States and European Union for the support of the peace, reconciliation and reconstruction of its highest consideration in Somalia.

90. The Meeting welcomed the progress made, namely the agreement reached between the Transitional Federal government and the Islamic Courts Union during the negotiations held under the auspices of the League of Arab States, in Khartoum on September 2nd where all parties have agreed to reconstitute together the Somali national army and national police, after the conclusion of a political agreement.

91. The Meeting also welcomed the efforts of the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to promote dialogue between the Somali parties and took note of the decision that a regional deployment of a possible peace support mission should be based on the broadest possible agreement in Somalia and in support of reconciliation, peace building and protection of the Somali people.

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

92. The Meeting expressed satisfaction with the major developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC funds for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone in furtherance of the spirit of solidarity and cooperation within the Ummah. It urged Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds. The Meeting also recommended Member States to make good use of them when implementing their projects meant for the above-mentioned countries.

93. The Meeting approved the convening of a Donors' Conference to assist the Government and people of Niger in order to build strategic food reserve and encourage agriculture so that the recurring food shortages in the country will be eradicated. It welcomed the approval by the State of Qatar to host the Donors' Conference before the end of 2006 and appealed to all Member States and organizations to participate actively in the Donors' Conference. The Meeting exhorted all the Member States and humanitarian and charitable institutions and organizations to quickly respond to the appeal made by the Republic of Niger and to dispatch relief assistance to this country as it is facing a serious humanitarian disaster due to the drought and famine which have claimed the lives of many citizens, particularly children and the elderly. The Meeting called all Member States and organizations to assist Sahelian countries to prevent and contain the occurrence of such humanitarian disasters in the region.

94. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the efforts of OIC Member Countries, the General Secretariat and OIC Organs to provide humanitarian assistance to Lebanon. The Meeting welcomed in particular, as a new aspect of the joint action, the initiative of the OIC Secretary General to mobilize the Muslim relief NGOs to provide assistance to Lebanon and to encourage them to be active in the field in a coordinated manner under the banner of OIC Humanitarian Forum.

UNILATERAL MEASURES

95. The Meeting reiterated its rejection of unilateral economic measures and attempts to impose unilateral economic sanctions on Member States. It expressed solidarity with Member States that are affected by such unilateral sanctions and requested that they be lifted immediately.

96. The Meeting welcomed the lifting of the unilateral sanction which had been imposed on Libya and reaffirmed Libya's right to reparations for the damages it sustained as a result of these sanctions. The Meeting reaffirmed the previous positions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), deeply regretted, once again, the verdict issued against the Libyan citizen Abdelbassit Al-Megrahi, and demanded his immediate release, since his conviction was based on political motives and has no

legal justification, as was confirmed by United Nations observers as well as a number of international legal experts. In this respect, the Meeting called on the International community and human rights organizations to exercise pressure on the governments concerned in order to ensure the release of the Libyan citizen.

DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION:

97. The Meeting expressed its concern over the current impasse on issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation and called for a renewed determination towards achieving a balanced consensus on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects. The meeting also emphasized the imperative of promoting multilateral diplomacy in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns, and, in this context, underlined that treaty-based multilateral institutions established under the auspices of the United Nations are the sole legitimate bodies to verify and ensure compliance with relevant international agreements.

98. The Meeting, while noting the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1540 of 28 April 2004 and 1673 of 27 April 2006, the scope of which remains limited to preventing the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors, reaffirmed that adoption of these resolutions represents temporary arrangement to fill a gap in international rules. It also reiterated that the Security Council can not assume legislative responsibilities in matters pertaining to non-proliferation and disarmament issues, since those States which seek to perpetuate the monopoly of nuclear weapons also wield the power of the veto in the Council. In this regard, the Meeting renewed its call for concluding a non-discriminatory and universally negotiated international treaty on the elimination of WMDs which should replace the temporary arrangements assumed by the Security Council under resolutions 1540 and 1673.

99. The Meeting while noting the on-going talks between Pakistan and India over conventional and nuclear confidence building measures welcomed the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for a Strategic Restraint Regime in South Asia to promote strategic stability and security.

100. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the Treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006 by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and considered this effort by five Central Asian Countries, which are all Member States of the OIC, as an effective contribution to strengthening regional and global peace and security.

101. The Meeting urged all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking practical and urgent steps required for implementing the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and warned against the dire consequences of the continuing rejection of Israel to accede to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under the full scope of the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this regard, the Meeting supported the draft resolution submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Security Council on 29 December 2003 regarding the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass

destruction in the Middle East and called upon the Security Council to act positively on the draft to achieve that lofty goal in the region.

102. The Meeting reaffirmed the need for total nuclear disarmament and for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It called on Member States to actively take part in all related international initiatives and conferences. It called on all Member States to ratify fair and non-discriminatory international conventions and to encourage the establishment of nuclear weapon-free zones. It strongly condemned Israel for developing nuclear weapons and persistently refusing to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency access to its nuclear facilities in violation of all international agreements on nuclear proliferation.

103. The Meeting, while reaffirming the inalienable rights of Member States, including Iran, without discrimination, to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as enshrined in the NPT and the Statute of the IAEA, called and supported firmly the peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues through negotiations, without preconditions. It expressed concern over the pressure being mounted on Iran and its potential consequences for peace and security in and outside the region.

TERRORISM:

104. Recalling Section VI of the Ten Year Program of Action adopted at the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al-Mukarramah in December 2005, and Resolution 12/33-P adopted at the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Baku in June 2006, the Meeting emphasized that terrorism contradicts the teachings of Islam, which urge tolerance, mercy and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism and any race, religion and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the legitimate struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. It also called for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on terrorism. It reiterated its welcome and support for the resolution issued by the International Conference on Combating Terrorism, which was held in Riyadh on 5-8 February 2005, relating to the establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Center under the aegis of the United Nations, with a view to immediately exchange information as well as for cooperation and coordination among Member States in order to strengthen efforts to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

105. The Meeting emphasized that terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace, security and stability. It does not have any justification and should be condemned unreservedly. Terrorism has no particular religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality or a geographic region. In this vein, any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, especially with Islam would serve the interests of terrorists. It is not possible to combat terrorism effectively without international solidarity and cooperation. The international community should therefore agree to a common and consistent approach in identifying, defining, condemning, isolating and punishing all terrorists and their supports. Due to the transnational nature of terrorism, the efforts to fight against it should be carried out on a global scale. United Nations is the main forum to promote international cooperation against

terrorism. Full compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and international conventions on fight against terrorism is vitally important.

106. The Meeting took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called for a review mechanism to provide a comprehensive Strategy which duly takes into account the root causes of terrorism and draw distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right of self determination by the people under foreign occupation or alien domination. The meeting recognized that foreign occupation, state terrorism, political and economic injustice and denial of right of self-determination to people are the main root causes of terrorism. The meeting recognized that a time-structured approach, envisaging short; medium; and long term objectives, to the implementation of the strategy could best accommodate the contentious issues related to the strategy.

107. The Meeting also reaffirmed its determination to make every effort to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, including by resolving the outstanding issues related to the legal definition of terrorism and scope of the acts covered by the convention, so that it can serve as an effective instrument to counter terrorism.

UN REFORM

108. The Meeting underlined the need for evolving common perceptions and agreed approaches to address both the new and existing threats to international peace and security in the context of multilateralism. In this regard, while underscoring that the process of UN reform should not take place at the expense of the UN principles, the Meeting emphasized the need for cooperative multilateralism to pursue and promote the UN Charter principles. The Meeting, also, reiterated the OIC's stance in support of the principle of the United Nations reform, including the expansion of the Security Council's membership, in accordance with the relevant UNGA resolutions, and taking into consideration the principles of sovereign equality of all States and the need to ensure equitable geographic distribution.

109. The Meeting emphasized that the question of reform and expansion of the UN Security Council is of direct and vital interest for all OIC Members States. It, therefore, called on its Member States to actively and effectively take part in the UN Security Council reform process, in accordance with the relevant declarations, statements and resolutions issued by the OIC.

110. The Meeting reiterated its support for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects in order to make it more democratic, representative, transparent and accountable as well as to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of its decisions.

111. The Meeting highlighted that in the current era of regional blocks, the OIC is the largest institution after the United Nations, which brings together one-fifth of the world population. Keeping in view the significant demographic and political weight of the OIC Member States of the Security Council also bears particular importance, not only from the perspective of increased efficiency, but also to ensure the representation of the main forms of civilization, including the adequate representation of the OIC Member States in any category of an expanded Security Council. It

reaffirmed its decision that any reform proposal which neglects the adequate representation of the Islamic Ummah in any category of membership in an extended Security Council will not be acceptable to the Islamic World.

112. The Meeting also stressed an increased role of regional groups in determining their representation on the Council. It also recognized that there was a wide support for increasing the number of non-permanent members in the Security Council.

113. The Meeting underlined the essential prerequisite of following a uniform approach on all aspects of UN reform and achieving the expansion of the Security Council with the broadest possible agreement. In this context, and keeping in view the prevailing divergent positions among UN member states on important aspects of Security Council reform, the Meeting stressed the initiation of constructive negotiation between all UN Member States, to refrain from pushing divisive votes, without imposing any time limits. It called for and to building upon the points of convergence such as the need to enlarge the Council, to increase the representation of developing countries, and to improve the working methods and transparency of the Council's work.

114. The Meeting stressed the importance of enhancing the solidarity and cohesion in the voting patterns at the United Nations organs on issues of mutual concern to the OIC Member States in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the OIC Summits and Ministerial Conferences. In this context, the Meeting called for the observance of this important tenet which upholds the credibility and integrity of the OIC.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS:

115. The Meeting strongly condemned the publication of offensive, provocative, irresponsible and blasphemous caricatures of the Prophet (PBUH) in the print and electronic media of some Western countries and their republication under the pretext of the freedom of expression and press freedom. It stressed that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised with responsibility and in accordance with the law.

116. The Meeting expressed its deep concern over the growing phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Muslim communities in non-OIC Member States, particularly in the West, including the promulgation and oppressive application of restrictive laws and other measures. It emphasized that all Islamophobic practices constitute an infringement of human dignity and contradict the provisions of the international human rights documents.

117. The Meeting called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to formulate an internationally binding document to promote global respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

118. The Meeting expressed its appreciation and full satisfaction for the laudable collective efforts of the OIC Group in Geneva to coordinate and harmonize the positions of the OIC Member States

within the Human Rights Council; to deployed collective and intensive efforts to enable newly established HRC to take concrete measures for the respect and protection of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories; and Lebanon; to placed two crucial issues for the OIC namely occupied Palestinian territories and incitement to racial and religious hatred and the promotion of tolerance at the top of the permanent agenda of the Human Rights Council.

119. The Meeting expressed its opposition to the practice of submitting country-specific resolutions on human rights situations which are selectively targeting developing and Islamic countries. It reaffirmed that this practice is one of the main reasons that transforms the work of human rights bodies into an extremely political exercise rather than contributes to the advancement of the cause of human rights.

120. The Meeting stressed the need to find fair and just solutions to the problems facing Muslim minorities in the world, including in particular denying them the right to exercise their political, civil and cultural rights, the gross human rights violations which at times amount to ethnic cleansing, in addition to religious and sectarian segregation, socio-economic backwardness, and exclusion form effective political activity in their countries.

121. The Meeting agreed that the General Assembly representing universal membership, in accordance with United Nations Charter must be enabled to exercise its authority in addressing all major issues, including peace and security, development and human rights. The Meeting further called for halting and reversing the encroachment by the Security Council on the Assembly's prerogatives and functions.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

122. The Meeting, recognizing the central role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the promotion of socio-economic development, called for its transformation into an effective policy dialogue platform, to use its mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the agreed development goals, as an effective development forum and strengthening its role in the prevention of conflicts through development support. In this context, the Meeting appreciated the proposal made by the President of the ECOSOC to further strengthen the coordinating role of the ECOSOC.

123. The Meeting took note of the final documents adopted in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunisia from 16 through 18 November 2005, following the first phase held in Geneva in December 2003, and emphasized the need for building on the commitments made in Geneva and Tunis by focusing on efforts aimed at bridging the gap between developing countries and industrial ones. It called on the Member States to focus on the follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, including by participating actively in the Internet Governance Forum. In this regard, the meeting welcomed the establishment of the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID), which met on 19-20 June in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to translate declarations and commitments made at the WSIS into action.

124. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to strengthen the role and capacity of the United Nations system to assist developing countries' efforts to achieve the internationally-agreed development goals, particularly goal number 8 of the Millennium Development Goal which calls for substantial increase in the development assistance to achieve these goals.

125. The Meeting emphasized the need for the promotion of the new global human order aimed at reversing the growing disparity between the rich and poor, both among and within countries through, inter alia, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of sustainable development, and the realization of the just aspiration of all peoples. In this regard, the Meeting also called for special attention to African Development issues and stressed the support of the international community to the NEPAD programme.

126. The Meeting reiterated that the pursuance of sustainable development should be the priority of all countries through the implementation of all internationally-agreed development goals and objectives at all levels, including those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Declaration, (and) the Brussels Programme of Action, and the Almaty Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. The Meeting also stressed that the multilateral trading and financial systems should be open, equitable, rule-based, non-discriminatory and sensitive to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) situation. In this context, it urged the international community to facilitate the accession of those OIC Member States that seek to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) on fair terms, irrespective of political considerations.

127. The Meeting urged the developed countries that have not done so, to materialize the target of 0.7% of GNP for official development assistance set for end of 2006, in order to enable the developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as set by 2015. In this connection particular attention should be given to the implementation of the Monterrey Declaration.

128. The Meeting noted with appreciation the progress of implementation of projects in the Pilot Phase of the Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries aimed at poverty alleviation in less-developed and low income countries and welcomed efforts for the implementation of the projects identified under Phase II of the Programme.

129. The Meeting called on United Nations Member States for the full implementation of the resolutions and the decisions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning the return of cultural properties to the peoples who were or still under colonial rule or foreign occupation. It also stressed the need for UNESCO to identify the stolen or illegally exported cultural properties in accordance with the relevant conventions on the subject. It emphasized the need to expedite the process of returning these properties to their countries of origin, in compliance with the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. It further emphasized the right of the Islamic countries to maintain and conserve their national heritage, as it constitutes the foundation of the cultural identity of these countries.

130. The Meeting welcomed the initiative by Malaysia to host the First OIC Anti-corruption and Enhancing Integrity Forum from 28-30 August 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the objective of

combating corruption, promoting good governance, increasing transparency and accountability among Member States.

131. The Meeting expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the OIC General Secretariat to ensure an effective presence of the Organisation on the international scene, and in international fora in particular in total collaboration and coordination with the Chairmen of the Contact Groups and the OIC Ambassadorial groups in New York, Geneva, Paris (UNESCO) and Vienna. The initiative of the OIC General Secretariat to organize an important conference on Islamophobia in Wilton Park, UK in May 2006, the holding of a fruitful meeting on cooperation between the UN and the OIC on July 2006, in Rabat, and the interactive policies of crisis management in dealing with the situations Somalia, Sudan, Chad, Iraq and the Philippines by dispatching fact finding mission aimed at reconciliation are among the efforts noted and welcomed by the Meeting. The OIC commendable effort to diligently implement the resolutions and programmes of the Ten-Year Plan of Action issued by the OIC Makkah Summit was met with strong approval and satisfaction. The same goes to the praiseworthy work regarding the structuring and revitalization of the function of the OIC General Secretariat and other OIC institutions.

SUPPORT TO OIC MEMBER STATES CANDIDATES:

132. The Meeting reaffirmed the principled position of the OIC that where there are any OIC Member States candidates for senior United Nations positions, including the position of Secretary General f the United Nations, the OIC will support them.

133. The Meeting expressed appreciation and satisfaction for the performance of the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the United Nations in New York in discharging its duties in conformity with the resolutions of the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences.

134. The Meeting adopted a communiqué regarding the inappropriate remarks about Islam uttered by His Holiness the Pope. (Appendix I).

135. The Meeting adopted the reports issued by:

I. The Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir (Appendix II).
II. The Committee on Palestine (Appendix III).
III. The Contact Group on Sierra Leone (Appendix IV).
IV. The Contact Group on Iraq (Appendix V).
V. The Contact Group on Somalia (Appendix VI).

Appendix I

Communiqué
regarding the inappropriate remarks about Islam uttered
by His Holiness the Pope of Vatican in a lecture
at the University of Regensburg, Germany on September 12, 2006

1. The foreign ministers of the OIC member states, in their annual coordination meeting held on the sidelines of 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly expressed their profound regrets over the terms used by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI in his lecture at the University of Regensburg in Bavaria, Germany, with regard to Prophet Mohamed peace be upon him.

2. The ministers considered that these terms, reflect lack of correct information about the Holy Quran, the Prophet and the Islamic faith, at the time when the Muslim World was expecting from His Holiness the new Pope to continue the promotion of the cordial ties which prevailed with his predecessors, and with the Vatican since many decades.

3. The ministers also expressed their concern and apprehension that the language used by His Holiness the Pope might engender a situation of tension between the Muslim World and the Vatican, to the detriment of the real interests of the two parties.

4. Guided by the principles of Islam, the religion of moderation, tolerance, recognition of the other and all revealed religions, the ministers believe that it is befitting to the Vatican to retract or redress the said statement, in demonstration of the correct spirit of Christianity in dealing with Islamic issues.

5. The ministers expressed their appreciations to the Secretary-General of the OIC for his efforts to convey to the Vatican the concerns of Member States, and requested him to follow up this issue.

Appendix II

REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE OIC CONTACT GROUP
ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR
PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OIC MEMBER STATES
UN HEADQUARTERS – NEW YORK
25 SEPTEMBER 2006
3 RAMADAN 1427 AH

The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir held a meeting on 20 September, 2006 at the UN Headquarters. It reviewed the latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Kashmiris for self-determination and the protection of their fundamental human rights.

2. The meeting recalled all previous Summits and ICFM Resolutions as well as relevant UN Resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute and extended full support to the Kashmiris to realize their aspirations through a negotiated peaceful settlement.

3. The meeting noted the progress in different fields in confidence-building as well as the commencement of the Third Round of composite dialogue and urged the parties to sustain the enabling environment to push the peace process forward with a view to expeditiously resolving all outstanding matters including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

4. The meeting welcomed the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Jammu and Kashmir, urged India to avail itself of the Good Offices provided by the OIC, and to improve the human rights conditions of the people and to allow international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to visit Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

5. Finally, the meeting took note of the memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmir people. The memorandum is annexed as part of this report.

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM PRESENTED BY THE
TRUE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KASHMIRI PEOPLE TO THE
OIC CONTACT GROUP ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR DURING THE 61ST SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
NEW YORK, 20 SEPTEMBER 2006

We, the True Representatives of the oppressed Kashmiri people;

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Conference, which emphasizes the common goals and destiny of the peoples of Islamic Ummah;

Emphasizing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and also resolutions of United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949 upholding the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Recalling all OIC Summit and Ministerial Resolutions and Declarations on, and relating to, Jammu and Kashmir;

Further recalling the reaffirmation of the commitment of the OIC and its Member States as reflected in the Tehran Summit Declaration of 11 December 1997, in the 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd and 33rd Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers held in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 and in the 10th Islamic Summit held in Kuala Lumpur in October 2003, to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and their support to the fundamental human rights of the Kashmiri people, including their right to self-determination;

Expressing deep gratitude to the OIC and its Member States for their unequivocal support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination and for their condemnation of the repression and massive human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir;

Appreciating the Government and people of Pakistan and the international community including OIC member states for their timely and generous help and assistance extended to the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir after the devastating earthquake of 8 October 2005;

Welcoming the Secretary General's decision to appoint Ambassador Ezzat Kamel Mufti as his Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir;

Regretting that India had not allowed the OIC Fact Finding Mission to visit Indian Occupied Kashmir, or responded favourably to the offer of the Good Offices Mission made by the OIC;

Completely rejecting all Indian efforts to impose sham elections, as they are not a substitute for the freely exercised right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination;

Reaffirming that any agreement on Jammu and Kashmir should be predicated on the aspirations of the Kashmiri people as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;

Welcoming the initiatives taken by Pakistan regarding confidence building measures in Kashmir including the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar Bus Service and the Rawalakot-Poonch bus service, the opening of the five LoC crossing points, and also the imminent commencement of intra-Kashmir trade through the Muzaffarabad- Srinagar Truck Service;

Strongly condemning the serious crimes and atrocities, massacres, extra- judicial killings, custodial deaths, reprisal killings, arbitrary detentions, torture, burning of houses, villages and townships and the use of rape as an instrument of suppression by the Indian government, through its military and para-military personnel and mercenaries, which have claimed more than 90,000 innocent lives in Jammu and Kashmir during the last seventeen years;

Reaffirming the Kashmiri peoples support for multi-ethnicity and multiculturalism as essential ingredients of life in Jammu and Kashmir;

Reaffirming that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is the root cause of conflict and tensions in South Asia;

Expressing hope that revival of the Composite Dialogue process would result in a just and final settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people;

Welcoming the flexibility shown by the President of Pakistan in identifying the steps to the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute;

Condemning the violation of the cease-fire along the LoC by India on 15 August 2006 as a result of which two innocent civilians were critically injured;

Further condemning the incarceration of the APHC leaders and restrictions on the freedom of their movement;

Expressing serious concern on the building of a fence on the Line of Control (LOC) in occupied Kashmir by India in contravention of international and bilateral agreements with a view to unilaterally alter the character of LOC;

Noting with deep concern the reports of unabated violations of human rights in the Indian occupied Kashmir and their negative impact on the peace process;

Welcoming the efforts by Pakistan to increase interaction among Kashmiris on both sides of the LoC, which began with the unprecedented visit of the prominent Kashmiri leaders representing All Parties Hurriyat Conference from Indian Occupied Kashmir to Azad Jammu & Kashmir in June 2005;

Noting that resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people would open new avenues of trade and economic cooperation and synergy for socio economic development of peoples of the region;

Denouncing the Indian designs to put the label of "terrorist activities" on the indigenous struggle for self-determination by the Kashmiri people which is justified both under the covenants of International Law and by the **UN** Security Council Resolutions;

Taking note of the world community's renewed interest in resolving the decades old dispute;

Welcoming the recommendations of the report on Kashmir issued by the European Parliament's adhoc-delegation and appointment of the EU Rapporteur to prepare its own initiative report;

Welcoming the decision of the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India in Havana, Cuba on 16 September 2006 to revive the composite dialogue;

Resolve that: the people of Jammu and Kashmir shall continue their just and legitimate struggle for the realization of their right to self determination as sanctioned in the UN Security Council resolutions through a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the UN;

Urge members of the OIC to:

i. Call upon India to sincerely address the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir for its resolution in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions;

ii. Stress upon the Indian Government to take immediate steps to reduce Kashmiri sufferings perpetrated by its security forces;

iii. Call upon India to withdraw its troops and revoke all draconian laws from the internationally recognized disputed areas of Jammu and Kashmir;

iv. Further call upon India to observe the ceasefire along the Line of Control;

v. Demand that India remove the fence along the LoC and call upon the international community, particularly the UN & UNMOGIP to take note of the Indian actions that constitute a serious derogation of its obligations under the international and bilateral agreements and violate the spirit of the unilateral ceasefire on the LOC that Pakistan had announced in November 2003;

vi. Call upon India to hold free and fair plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir under UN auspices as stipulated in the United Nations Security Council resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949;

vii. Persuade India to create conditions for the resumption of peaceful, genuine political process in Jammu and Kashmir by removing the restrictions on the freedom of movement of the Kashmiri leadership and to conduct peaceful political activities;

viii. Reject past, present and future Indian efforts to impose sham and farcical elections on the people of Jammu and Kashmir since these are no substitute to a free and fair

plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations as prescribed in the relevant Security Council resolutions;

ix. Call upon India to accept the OIC fact finding mission to be headed by the Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir;

x. Urge India to repeal the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act *1958*, Jammu and Kashmir Disturbed Areas Act 1992, and Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act 1978, as these draconian laws give the security forces wide powers of arrest and detention and virtual impunity to commit human rights violations;

xi. Call upon India to allow access to major Human Rights NGOs like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations/NGOs to monitor and document the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir;

xii. Urge the United Nations to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, without further delay, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions;

xiii. Support the declaration of the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and Kashmiri and Human Rights activists as "Internationally Protected Persons";

xiv. Support the right of freedom of movement of Kashmiri people and the leaders of All Parties Hurriyat Conference and seek their guaranteed protection;

xv. Extend all possible humanitarian assistance to the people of Kashmir;

xvi. Encourage the OIC to play a more active role, including providing humanitarian help to Kashmiri widows and children;

xvii. Welcome the European Parliament's decision to prepare an "Own Initiative Report" on Jammu and Kashmir; and

xviii. Call upon the European Parliament to take action on the recommendations given in the report of the Ad-Hoc delegation, particularly with regard to the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Kashmir;

Request the OIC Secretary General to:

a. Convey the OIC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir dispute to the Indian Government, the UN Secretary General, the governments of the P-5 the President of the UN Security Council, and the European Parliament in order to convey the Islamic world's concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and seek their role in its resolution;

b. Convey to India the readiness to send his Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir on a fact finding mission to Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir;

c. Include the Kashmir issue in the agenda of OIC's dialogue with regional and international organizations such as the UN and EU;

Appeal to all peace loving people and the nations of the world and the Islamic Ummah in particular, to urge the Indian Government to put an end to the egregious violations of the human rights of the Kashmiris, and help and support the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination as promised to them under the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Appendix III

REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE
OIC SIX-MEMBER COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE
PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES
UN HEADQUARTERS – NEW YORK
25 SEPTEMBER 2006 (2 RAMADAN 1427)

The OIC Six-Member Committee on Palestine held a meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on 21 September 2006), under the chairmanship of Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC.

II The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Members States of the Committee:

- Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- Republic of Senegal;
- State of Palestine;
- Malaysia.

III The Secretary-General opened the meeting with an address in which he reiterated the OIC's unwavering position on the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif. He called for concerted efforts to end Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, which had become more ferocious after the Palestinian legislative elections.

IV The Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine delivered an address in which he explained in detail the conditions in the Palestinian territories and the escalating Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and other Palestinian areas as well as the destruction by Israel of ministries, houses and government facilities and infrastructure. The statement also explained the dangerous situation in the Palestinian territories, particularly the City of Al Quds Al Sharif due to the continued construction of the racial segregation wall, settlement activities as well as Israeli Illegal measures and practices aimed at the Judaization of the Holy City.

V Members of the Committee made inputs in which they reiterated their countries' staunch support for Palestinian rights and unwavering positions. They called on the international community, particularly the Quartet, to assume its responsibilities of stopping Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people, to prevent continued Israeli killings, bombing of homes and targeting of infrastructure as well as government building and installations. They also demanded that pressure should be brought to bear on Israel to halt the construction of the racial segregation wall and all settlement activities, to resume the peace process in accordance with the set principles, to implement the road map as published and the international resolutions concerning Palestine and the Arab- Israeli conflict. They called for an urgent international peace conference for the purpose of implementing the

UN resolutions on the principle of full withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian lands in return for a lasting and comprehensive peace.

VI The Committee forwarded the following recommendations to the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States:

1. The meeting affirmed all the relevant resolutions adopted by the Islamic conferences and the Al Quds Committee regarding the question of Palestine, Al Quds and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2. The meeting reiterated the centrality of the question of Al Quds Al Sharif to the entire Islamic Ummah and the need to preserve its Arab and Islamic character and defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian sacred places. It renewed its condemnation of Israeli measures aimed at changing the City's condition, demographic composition as well as its Arab and Islamic character, particularly through illegal colonial practices including its settlement activities and the building of racial segregation walls in and around the City and isolating it from its Palestinian neighborhood.

3. The Committee reiterated its principled support for the right of the Palestinian people to attain their national independence and exercise their sovereignty in the context of the Palestinian state with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital. It emphasized once again, the rights of Palestinian refugees under international law and General Assembly Resolution 194 (III) of 11th December 1948. The meeting reiterated its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self determination under their legitimate national leadership.

4. It commended the Palestinian legislative elections which reaffirm the ability of the Palestinian people to practice democracy and exercise their right to self determination, to establish their independent state on their national soil, with Al Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital. It called on the international community to respect the democratic choice of the Palestinian people and expressed support for the Palestinian national dialogue which culminated in the signing of the national dialogue document.

5. It condemned Israel Israel for abducting the Speaker and members of the Legislative Council, ministers and elected members of the Municipal Councils, considered such a flagrant violation of international law, held it fully responsible for their lives and safety and demanded their immediate release.

6. It affirmed the illegality of the Israeli measures in Al Quds Al Sharif aimed at annexing, Judaizing and changing the City's demographic and geographic character. It warned on the danger of excavations being made under the Al Aqsa Mosque by Israel and its commencement of the demolition of the Mograbi Gate Hill which links the Al Baraq Square with the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque. It requested the international community, particularly the Security Council and UNESCO to assume the responsibilities of

compelling Israel to respect international law and to stop its illegal and illegitimate practices in the occupied City of Al Quds.

7. The meeting strongly condemned the continuation of Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, including in the City of Al Quds Al Sharif. It also condemned strongly the premeditated killing of Palestinian civilians, including executions without trials and the destruction of infrastructure, ministries, as well as Palestinian government buildings and installations, the blatant demolition of houses, gouging out of farm lands, the arrest and incarceration of thousands of Palestinians, and the imposition of collective sanctions on the entire Palestinian people, including the imposition of stringent restrictions on movements of persons and goods as well as curfews for long periods.

8. The meeting also condemned very strongly the illegal Israeli settlement policy and practices in the Palestinian territories through its settlement activities and the building of expansion wall which causes the confiscation of additional thousands of dounemes and the isolation of tens of Palestinian towns and villages and the expanded destruction of properties and means of livelihood of thousands of Palestinians. The meeting regarded these illegal activities as actual annexation of a large part of Palestinian territories, thus rendering impossible the establishment of a Palestinian state.

9. It condemned the measures imposed by Israel on crossings in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank regions which are in violation of the provisions of international humanitarian law and the crossing agreements reached under the auspices of Quartet. It also cautioned the foolhardiness of proceeding to impose similar arbitrary measures which will affect various aspects of the daily lives of the Palestinian people.

10. It called on states and bodies that stopped their assistance to the Palestinian people after the Palestinian legislative elections to review their positions and not to punish the Palestinian people for their democratic choices. It urged them to resume the provision of assistance to the Palestinian people and their national authority and help them to build their economy.

11. The meeting condemned Israel's defiance of the advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice on 9 July 2004 and its non compliance with the General Assembly resolution ES15/10 of 20 July 2004, as well as its continued construction of the wall on the occupied Palestinian territory, in and around the Al Quds Al Sharif. Consequently, the meeting once again called for the respect of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and to implement resolution ES-15/10. The meeting called for the imposition of punitive measures against entities and companies that contribute to the building of the wall and against the products of the settlements, settlers and all beneficiaries of the illegal activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al Quds. The meeting called for the following specific measures:

(a) More measures should be taken in the context of the United Nations in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of resolution ES-15/10. It also called on the Security

Council to assume its responsibility by adopting a clear resolution and taking necessary measures in this regard. The Secretary General of the United Nations should speed up work regarding the request of the General Assembly contained in the resolution 15/10 which provides for the establishment of a record of the magnitude of damage caused by the wall and to ascertain that the positions and documents of the UN General Secretariat agree completely with the advisory opinion.

(b) Concerning Member States, the meeting called for measures, including legislative means at collective, regional and individual levels to prevent products of illegal Israeli settlements from entering their markets under the obligations imposed by international treaties, to prevent Israeli settlers from entering their territories and to impose sanctions on companies and bodies that contribute to the construction of this wall and such other illegal acts in the occupied Palestinian territories.

(c) The meeting called on all The High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to abide by the Common Article 1 of the four Geneva Conventions and to take measures to ensure Israel's compliance with the Convention.

12. It emphasized the need to implement the international resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine as well as the principles and resolutions of international law, including the law to protect human beings, particularly the law provided for in the Geneva Convention related to the protection of civilians during wars, adopted on the 12th of August 1949.

13. The meeting reiterated its support for comprehensive peace based on relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003) as well as the agreed principles which call on Israel to withdraw fully from the occupied Palestinian territories, including Al Quds Al Sharif and other occupied Arab lands. In this regard the meeting renewed its support for the Arab peace initiative endorsed by the 14th Arab Summit in Beirut, Lebanon on 28 March 2002.

14. The meeting called on the international community and the Quartet to exert necessary efforts to implement the road map so as to achieve its stated objectives in accordance with international law. It expressed its total rejection of positions and measures that contradict the rules of international legality and the authorities of the peace process, including Israeli unilateral measures which attempt to preempt the outcome of negotiations on the questions of final status. It called on States and all international organizations not to recognize or deal with any guarantees or promises that will result in the reduction of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and not reward the Israeli occupation which tries to impose its conditions through the policy of fait accompli.

15. It expressed a strong concern about the tragic conditions of Arab and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention camps and called on the international community - humanitarian and international rights organizations, to put pressure on Israel to release them in line with signed agreements and understanding.

16. It called for more effective participation of the United Nations in ensuring the success of the Middle East Peace Process and affirmed the continued responsibility of the United Nations towards all aspects of the question of Palestine until a just and comprehensive solution is found, which will end the occupation and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to return, to self determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil, with Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital.

17. It emphasized the need to continue to ensure that Israeli documents of accreditation at the United Nations do not cover lands occupied by Israel since 1967, including Al Quds Al Sharif.

18. It renewed its demand to states as well as international organizations and bodies to abide by international resolutions concerning the City of Al Quds as an integral part of Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967 and called on them not to participate in any meeting or activity that serves the objectives of Israel in consolidating its occupation and annexation of the Holy City.

19. It emphasized the need to implement the Security Council resolution 237 on the return of displaced Palestinians and the General Assembly resolution 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes and properties as two important pillars of a just and lasting solution.

20. It emphasized the ongoing responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in discharging its duties towards all Palestinians wherever they may be under the General Assembly resolution in this regard.

21. It renewed its call to Member States to abide by the resolutions adopted by the Summit meetings and ministerial conferences on the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict during voting at the United Nations and at international fora.

22. It decided to mandate the Secretary General to take the necessary measures to enhance communication and coordination on the question of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Union, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and to express appreciation for these institutions' solidarity stance and support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

Appendix IV

REPORT OF THE MEETING
OF THE CONTACT GROUP ON SIERRA LEONE
SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF OIC MEMBER STATES
UN HEADQUARTERS – NEW YORK
25 SEPTEMBER 2006 (2 RAMADAN 1427 AH)

I. The Contact Group on Sierra Leone held a meeting on 21 September 2006 at the UN headquarters in New York. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign affairs of Malaysia on behalf of the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Chairman of the Contact Group.

The meeting was attended by participants from the following Member States:

1. Malaysia
2. Republic of Guinea
3. Republic of Sierra Leone

II. The Chairman of the meeting delivered an opening speech in which he welcomed the participants and hailed their presence. He also paid tribute to the achievement of the OIC Fund in Sierra Leone despite the inadequate sources of finances available. The Chairman also briefed the meeting of the progress achieved in Sierra Leone through the capacity Building Programme for OIC countries.

III. The participants listened to the statement of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, in which he outlined the Fund's achievements and called for it to be backed up financially so that it may proceed with its action, particularly as the operating budget of the Bureau ends at the end of the current year.

IV. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Sierra Leone expressed appreciation to Malaysia and the General Secretariat for convening the meeting and involvement in the Capacity Building Programme in Sierra Leone. He further gave his commitment to collaborate with Malaysia and the OIC General Secretariat to ensure its success as it will have a huge impact on the lives of the people of Sierra Leone.

He further stressed the urgent need to convene a second Donors Conference as the Trust Fund would not be by the end of the year.

V. The meeting took cognizance of the report of the Third meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the Reconstruction of Sierra Leone which was held at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on 22nd April 2006. The meeting paid tribute to the achievements realized by the Fund under the chairmanship of Sheikh Abdelaziz Bin Abdurrahman Al Thani, and appealed to the Member States that have not yet made their contribution to the Fund, to do so promptly and generously.

VI. Several delegates took the floor and expressed their views and opinions, and at the close of the meeting the Contact Group decided to submit the following recommendations to the Ministerial Coordination Meeting:

1. To renew the appeal to the Member States to contribute generously to the OIC Fund in support of the people of Sierra Leone.

2. To promptly convene another donors meeting to be held at an appropriate time and venue to mobilize further resources for the Fund, it being known that the operating budget of the Fund will be spent up this year.

3. To hold a meeting of the Fund's Board of Trustees in December of the current year to examine the Fund's situation and take appropriate decisions.

Appendix V

REPORT
OF THE INAUGURAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE
OIC CONTACT GROUP ON IRAQ
PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARERS - NEW YORK.
25 SEPTEMBER 2006 (3 RAMADAN 1427 AH)

1. The Contact Group on Iraq held its inaugural meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2006, under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

2. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Egypt, Pakistan, Iraq and Guinea.

3. In his opening remarks, the Chairman welcomed the other Member States and strongly urged them to express their solidarity with Iraq and its people during the existing critical period and to extend all possible support and assistance for achieving broad based political reconciliation and economic rehabilitation for their country. He also strongly urged all Iraqi leaders to amicably reconcile their difference and forge nation unity.

4. He also expressed his appreciation to the Member States for having accepted his invitation to constitute the Contact Group, and his confidence that this forum would become an effective mechanism to comprehensively and rapidly deliberate upon the rapid developments in one of OIC's important Member State. While expressing his concern over the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Iraq, the Secretary General strongly appealed to all Iraqi leaders to act with utmost restraint and responsibility in order to achieve genuine national reconciliation and economic stability in their country. He informed about his participation in the Ninth Conference of Iraq's Neighbours as well as the visits of his Special Envoy to Baghdad, Amman and Cairo. He also informed about OIC's initiative to host a meeting of religious leaders from the Shiite and Sunni sects in Iraq in Makkah Al Mukarrammah during the holy month of Ramadan, which would seek to prevent the bloodshed and encourage the togetherness of Shiites and Sunnis in working towards a prosperous future for their country.

5. The meeting was then briefed by the Representative of Iraq on the recent developments in his country and the continuous efforts being exerted by his Government to bring about peace and stability in the country. He strongly appealed to Member States to urgently extend financial and technical assistance to his Government in order to enable it to effectively implement its programs for the reconstruction of the country, restore security and stability and prevent the country from collapsing and slipping into war. He also urged OIC's active and sustained involvement in his country.

6. Following a discussion amongst the participants, the meeting agreed upon the following important recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Annual OIC Coordination Meeting

of the Foreign Ministers, and called upon the General Secretariat and the Chairman of the Contact Group to implement them:

i. Appealed to all Iraqi leaders to exercise utmost restraint and responsibility and sincerely strive towards achieving genuine political reconciliation.

ii. Welcomed the reconciliation efforts being undertaken by the Iraqi Government and extended their full support to them.

iii. Called upon Member States to extend all forms of financial and technical assistance to the Iraqi Government in order to enable it to successfully carry out its plans to bring about peace and stability in the country.

iv. Called upon the Contact Group, the Special Envoy and the General Secretariat to continue to be actively involved in the political reconciliation and economic reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

v. Supports the initiative of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, to host during the holy month of Ramadan, in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, under the aegis of the OIC General Secretariat, a meeting of religious leaders from the Shiite and Sunni sects in Iraq.

vi. Called upon Member States to generously contribute towards the budget of the proposed OIC Liaison Office in Baghdad.

vii. Requested the Secretary General to continue to establish effective contacts with all Iraqi dignitaries, the League of Arab States and the United Nations, in order to coordinate joint efforts aimed at achieving peace and reconciliation in Iraq.

7. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman of the Contact Group expressed his appreciation to the members for their invaluable participation and constructive views and urged them to continue to work with the same collective spirit.

Appendix VI

REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE
CONTACT GROUP ON SOMALIA
SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS — NEW YORK
25 SEPTEMBER 2006 (3 RAMADAN 1427 AH)

1. The Contact Group on Somalia held its meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States on 22 September 2006. The State of Qatar chaired the meeting of the Contact Group.

2. The following Member States participated in the meeting:

- State of Qatar
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam
- Republic of Yemen
- Republic of Djibouti
- Malaysia
- Republic of Turkey
- Republic of Sudan
- Somali Republic

3. In his opening remarks, the Chairman strongly urged the Contact Group Members to express their solidarity with Somalia and its people during the existing critical period and to extend all possible support and assistance for achieving broad based political reconciliation and economic rehabilitation for their country. He also strongly urged all Somali factions, particularly from the Government and the Islamic Courts, to amicably reconcile their difference and forge nation unity.

4. In his statement, the Secretary-General, while expressing his concern over the recent developments in Somalia, strongly appealed to the Somali Transitional Government and all other leaders to act with utmost restraint and responsibility in order to achieve genuine national reconciliation. He informed that as a follow-up to the two OIC missions that were dispatched to assess the situation in Somalia during May and June 2006, his Special Envoy had actively participated in the League of Arab States-sponsored mediation talks between the Somali Government and the Islamic Courts, which were held in Khartoum in the first week of September 2006. The Secretary General also appreciated the role played by the Contact Group in following up Somali affairs. He urged the Member States to extend all forms of assistance to enable the Transitional Somali Government to

rebuild its state institutions; successfully carry out the plan for reconstruction of their country and overcome the destructive impact of the protracted war that Somalia had endured. He also urged Member States to contribute towards the budget of the anticipated OIC Liaison Office in Baidoa.

5. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Somali Republic addressed his thanks to the OIC General Secretariat for the efforts it has contributed on a consistent basis towards helping Somalia overcome the difficulties facing it. He invited the Member States to vote in favour of the United Nations resolution relevant to the lifting of the embargo and the sanctions as well as to the deployment of peace maintenance forces particularly those from Member States of IGAD and from Africa. The Minister also added that the deployment of such forces would facilitate the establishment of an efficient administration in the service of the Somali people. In this respect, he requested greater involvement on the part of the OIC.

6. Following a discussion amongst the participants, the meeting agreed upon the following important recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Annual OIC Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers and called on the General Secretariat and Chairman of the Contact Group to implement them:

a) Appealed to all Somali leaders to exercise utmost restraint and responsibility and sincerely strive towards achieving genuine political reconciliation.

b) Welcomed the ongoing negotiations between the Transitional Government and the Islamic Courts and urged them to reach an amicable settlement.

c) Called upon Member States to extend all forms of financial and technical assistance to the Transitional Federal Government to enable it to successfully carry out its plans for the reconstruction of the country, resettlement of displaced persons and refugees, rebuilding of state institutions and preserving security and stability.

d) Called upon the Contact Group, the Special Envoy and the General Secretariat to continue to be actively involved in the political reconciliation and economic reconstruction efforts in Somalia.

e) Called upon Member States to generously contribute towards the budget of the proposed OIC Liaison Office in Somalia.

f) Requested the Secretary General to continue establishing effective contacts with all Somali dignitaries, the African Union, the League of Arab States and IGAD, in order to coordinate joint efforts aimed at achieving durable peace and reconciliation in Somalia.

7. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman of the Contact Group expressed his appreciation to the members for their invaluable participation and constructive views and urged them to continue to work with the same collective spirit.